Ute Indian Full Bloods Choose Tribal Leaders

Four new full blood committeemen today lit council fires to resume business of the Ute Indian Tribe on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Fort Duchesne, Utah, after being elected to office by the largest turnout of voters in the history of the Ute Indian tribe. Leaderless since April 5th when the 1814 members of the Ute Tribe were divided into two autonomous groups known as the full bloods and mixed bloods, some 1360 full blood Ute Indians chose 24-year-old Thomas G. Appah, Harvey Natchees of World War II fame, veteran of 8 years prior service in Ute Tribal Councils, Russell Cuch and Wallace Tabbee, son of John Tabee, beloved Uncompahgre leader who recently passed away.

Accenting youth and education, the new officials were sworn into office by John O. Crow, superintendent of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. They join Ouray McCook and Jason Cuch in forming the Uintah and Ouray Tribal Business Council which is the governing body of the Ute Tribe. Retiring members of the Council are Mrs. Lorena Iorg, Mrs. Sarah Hackford and Oran Curry, who became ineligible because they are members of the mixed blood group.

A veteran of the Korean con-

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★ UTE TRIBE PICKS LEADERS

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flict and a former student at the Brigham Young University, Thomas Appah is the youngest councilman ever elected to the tribal council. As the first American soldier of World War II to enter Berlin, Germany, and a recipient of many awards and honors for his outstanding soldiering, Harvey Natchees also serves as associate judge on the local tribal court. A Marine Corps veteran of World War II, Russell Cuch has served two four-year terms through the great reorganizing period of the Ute Tribe and was the vice-chairman during his last term. He did not seek election after his term expired two years ago in order to devote his time to farming and ranch business.

Follows Father

A game warden for the Tribe, Wallace Tabbee, follows the footsteps of his father, John Tabbee, the Uncompahgre leader who sparked the drive to separate the mixed blood Utes from the full blood Indians.

In the process of developing a long-range economic, social and cultural program, the Ute Indians requested legislation which was enacted into Public Law 671 by the 83rd Congress in August, 1954. This law provides for the separation of the two groups, division of assets, and termination of federal supervision over some 490 mixed blood Utes in a period of five years. It is expected that the mixed blood Utes will be integrated with the citizens of Utah at the end of the termination period while the full blood Utes will enter into a period of intensive rehabilitation program aimed at making them self-supporting and independent at some future time.

After a period of organizational activity, the mixed blood Utes will hold an election on June 2nd to choose officers to a newly-formed holding corporation.